

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101

May 21, 2001

Reply To Attn Of:

ECL-115

Bill Walters, Deputy Regional Director National Park Service 909 1st Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

Re: Upper Columbia River sampling, northeast WA

Dear Mr. Walters:

As you may be aware, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting a sampling site investigation (SI) of the Upper Columbia River in northeast Washington. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information regarding EPA's on-going assessment of the Upper Columbia River and a brief description of field activities planned for this year.

In May/June of this year, sediment samples will be collected from the northern reach of the Upper Columbia River beginning at Inchelium, WA extending northward to the US-Canada border. EPA also plans to visit a number of mines and mills located within the Upper Columbia River drainage area this Summer. The purpose of which is to help identify potential contaminant sources to the Upper Columbia River.

Based on a search of property ownership, the mines and mills to be visited are situated on either federally-owned or private property. A preliminary list of mines and mills that appear to be situated on federally-owned property is provided in Enclosure 1. A list of mines and mills for which we are currently verifying ownership is included in Enclosure 2. Please be assured that EPA contractor personnel will coordinate field activities with the appropriate federal agency staff.

The sampling SI is a screening step that will help determine whether further detailed investigation or action by EPA or others is needed. Further information regarding EPA's assessment activities is provided in the enclosed Fact Sheet. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

Monica Jonel
Monica Tonel

Site Assessment Manager

149416

USEPA SF

Enclosures

Preliminary List of Mines and Mills (visits to be conducted in June/July 2001)

Mine/Mill Name	County	Property Ownership
Gold Bar	Stevens	BLM
Homestake	Stevens	BLM
Lottie	Stevens	BLM
Sierra Zinc/Blue Ridge	Stevens	BLM
Keystone	Stevens	Forest Service
Lucky Four	Stevens	Forest Service
Evergreen	Stevens	Forest Service
United Treasure	Stevens	Forest Service
Hubbard	Stevens	Forest Service
King Tut	Pend Orielle	Forest Service
Oriole	Pend Orielle	Forest Service
Red Top	Pend Orielle	Forest Service
Lead Hill	Pend Orielle	Forest Service

Preliminary List of Mines and Mills (visits to be conducted in June/July 2001)

Mine/Mill Name	County	Search indicates ownership is
New Leadville Minorca Antelope Scandia Sterling Bella May Washington Z Canyon Hoage Lucky Strike Hanley Calhoun Hope & Twin Cabins Morning Magma Lucile Lakeview Myeerah Scaman Iroquois Lead King Lead Queen	Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens Pend Orielle Stevens	private or BLM private, BLM or FS private or USGS DNR or BLM private or FS
Cliff Bechtol Thompson Lead trust Electric Point Gladstone RJ Uncle Sam	Pend Orielle Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens Stevens	private or FS private or USA USA USA USA USA USA USA USA